

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 575

Providing that Hamas and other terrorist organizations should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2005

Mr. CANTOR (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, and Mr. WEXLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Providing that Hamas and other terrorist organizations should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

Whereas the foundation for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process was Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist and a solemn obligation to end terrorism and violence;

Whereas the removal of all Israeli presence in Gaza signifies an end to Israeli responsibility there and a shift in security responsibility of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas Israel's evacuation of Gaza affords the Palestinian Authority, now the responsible governing authority in Gaza, the opportunity to demonstrate its ability to gov-

ern, to establish the rule of law, to end corruption, and thereby to demonstrate that it is a partner for peace;

Whereas Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly called for the establishment of “One Authority, One Law, and One Gun”;

Whereas since the withdrawal of Israeli military forces, the Palestinian Authority has taken few steps to establish rule of law in Gaza;

Whereas Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade, and other terrorist organizations have vowed to continue terrorism against Israeli civilians, seek the destruction of the State of Israel, and employ violence and terror in fulfillment of that aim;

Whereas the inclusion of Hamas, or any other terrorist group on the State Department list of foreign terrorist organizations, into the Palestinian structure could be construed as an implicit endorsement of their anti-American and anti-Israeli terrorist ideology;

Whereas the first provision of the Road Map to Middle East Peace calls for the Palestinians to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure;

Whereas these terrorist organizations, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, operate virtually without interference from the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas Hamas has announced its intention to run in Palestinian legislative elections scheduled for January 2006;

Whereas Abbas has indicated his willingness to see Hamas participate in the elections without first calling for it to disband its militia or for it to renounce its goal of destroying the State of Israel;

Whereas the United States has clearly stated that armed militias attached to political parties are incompatible with democratic societies;

Whereas President Bush has stated that Hamas “seeks to end dissent in every form, to control every aspect of life . . . the terrorists are preparing a future of oppression and misery”;

Whereas the forces of freedom must continue to keep an untiring vigil against the enemies of rising democracies; and

Whereas the United States has a longstanding policy of not dealing or negotiating with terrorists: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms its commitment to the safety and
3 security of the democratic State of Israel;

4 (2) asserts that terrorist organizations, such as
5 Hamas, should not be permitted to participate in
6 Palestinian elections until such organizations recog-
7 nize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state, cease
8 incitement, condemn terrorism, and permanently dis-
9 arm and dismantle their terrorist infrastructure;

10 (3) calls on the Palestinian Authority President
11 Abbas before the election to declare openly his inten-
12 tion to take action to dismantle the terrorist organi-
13 zations;

14 (4) asserts that the inclusion of Hamas, or any
15 other terrorist group on the State Department list of

1 foreign terrorist organizations, into the Palestinian
2 governing structure will inevitably raise serious pol-
3 icy considerations for the United States, potentially
4 undermining the continued ability of the United
5 States to provide financial assistance and conduct
6 normal relations with the Palestinian Authority; and
7 (5) states its strong belief, as underlined in
8 every recent Israeli/Palestinian peace agreement,
9 that progress in the peace process requires sustained
10 Palestinian effort to dismantle the terrorist infra-
11 structure, and that delay in confronting that prin-
12 cipal obligation only emboldens the opponents of
13 peace and threatens its realization.

○